The 2027 Barry Hittner Research Fellowship
at the Rhode Island Historical Society

The Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) is excited to offer the Barry Hittner Research Fellowship in Rhode Island History to support visiting researchers and scholars to consult our library and museum collections. The RIHS owns and manages vast historical collections in the Mary Elizabeth Robinson Research Center, which houses over 100,000 volumes, 9 million feet of film, nearly 1 million photographs, and 1,200 manuscript collections comprising more than 10 million pages of documents. Two blocks away the John Brown House Museum holds more than 25,000 artifacts which constitute the museum collection (furniture, portraits, textiles, porcelain, etc.).

The RIHS welcomes applications from researchers at all levels of their professional careers, including (but not limited to) graduate students, public historians, academic scholars, and independent researchers. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate a convincing case for the use of *specific* collections or material artifacts in the RIHS collections. Click here for the master list of finding aids to the manuscript collections. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the Robinson Research Center by email at reference@rihs.org to inquire about collections.

Awarded annually, the Hittner Fellowship provides a stipend of $2,500 to support **2-4 weeks** of in-person archival research in our collections. The projected length of their fellowship should also be noted in their applications. Fellows are also encouraged to seek out additional research and networking opportunities at nearby cultural institutions including Brown University, the State Archives, the State Library, the Providence Public Library; and the Providence Athenaeum. It is nevertheless expected that the bulk of research will be done at the RIHS.

Deliverables: At the conclusion of their fellowship period, Hittner Fellows will be asked to present their work and findings via a public talk attended by RIHS staff, volunteers, members, and the general public. The format of this talk could be in-person or virtual depending on scheduling.

Interested applicants should email fellowships@rihs.org with any questions.

Application Instructions:

Applications are due by December 13, 2026, and notifications will be sent via email no later than January 8, 2026.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Individuals enrolled in a terminal degree program must submit a letter of recommendation from their advisor or the equivalent.
- The Hittner Fellowship is only available to US residents or those with an F-1 visa AND a US tax ID number. The RIHS cannot sponsor visas for researchers.

To apply for the Hittner Research Fellowship, submit the following materials in PDF format via email to Fellowships@rihs.org:

- **Cover letter (1 page): S**ummarize the scope of your project and its significance to an understanding of Rhode Island's history.
- **Curriculum vitae or resume** (3 pages maximum).
- **Project proposal (1-2 pages):** Describe your proposed research project and how the Rhode Island Historical Society's collections are central to your work.
- **List of Sources:** Include a brief (1 page) list of items or collections in the RIHS that you intend to consult if awarded a fellowship.
- **Letter of support (for applicants in a degree program)** from someone familiar with your project who can speak to its significance to Rhode Island's history.